

INFORMATION NEEDS FOR DUTCH NATIONAL POLICY EVALUATION

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Biographical Sketch of Authors

Jos Timmerman is employed as senior projectleader at the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment RIZA in the Department of Information and Measurement technologies and is involved in the Dutch national inland water quality and quantity monitoring. John Schobben is employed as senior projectleader at the Institute for Coastal Zone Management RIKZ in the Department of Advice and Policy. In their position, authors are responsible for linking monitoring to policy information needs. Authors have contributed to the development of the methodology for specification of information needs and the implementation of this method to describe the information needs for Dutch national policy evaluation as summarized in this paper.

Abstract

Acceptation of the fourth national policy document on water management by the Dutch parliament was the starting point for inventorying the information needs to evaluate this new policy. The project was carried out along the lines of the five-step method for specification of information needs, and was restricted to the information needs of the Dutch Directorate General of Public Works and Water Management. Apart from an overview of information needs on a high level of abstraction, some conclusions were drawn on the future changes in monitoring. The conclusions were: 1) 'policy-monitoring' is needed to be able to evaluate progress in policy measures; 2) spatial planning should be based on hydrological conditions; 3) expansion of transboundary cooperation in water management is inevitable; 4) a limited number of indicators for water policy evaluation should be developed; and 5) monitoring networks should be made more flexible. These future developments are subject to study in the next few years.